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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known see 37 CFR 1.5)	
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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/SE00/01630		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 24 August 2000		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 24 August 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION A LOCKING DEVICE FOR A WIRE LINE CORE DRILLING SYSTEM A WIRE LINE SYSTEM INCLUDING SAID DEVICE AND A METHOD FOR CORE DRILLING					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US BORG, Thomas					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.3. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).					
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none">11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Copies of WO 01/14689 and PCT International Search Report;2. Copy of Form PCT/IB/308;3. Copy of PCT International Preliminary Examination Report					

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BARNES & THORNBURG

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group. Unknown

Attorney

Docket: 3061-69940

Applicant BORG, Thomas

Invention: A LOCKING DEVICE FOR A WIRE
LINE CORE DRILLING SYSTEM, A
WIRE LINE SYSTEM INCLUDING
SAID DEVICE AND A METHOD FOR
CORE DRILLING

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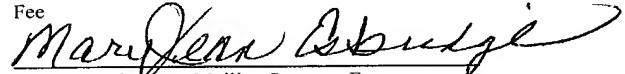
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FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attention: DO/EO/US
Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified national patent application submitted herewith, Applicant requests entry of the following amendments.

Abstract

Please enter the abstract of the disclosure submitted as a separate paper herewith.

In the Specification

Please add the following paragraph to the description as follows:

On page 1, after the title of the invention, please add the following section heading and accompanying paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. national counterpart application of international application serial No. PCT/SE00/01630 filed August 24, 2000, which claims priority to Swedish application serial no. 9903018-1 filed August 24, 1999.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-10 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A locking device for a wire line core drill comprising an inner tube by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube connected to a drill bit, which locking device is applied in the rear end of the inner tube wherein the locking device comprises locking members so designed that, when the inner tube has been inserted into the outer tube and has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, in one and the same movement it simultaneously effects mechanical locking of the inner tube in relation to the outer tube and mechanical release of a gripping means of an accompanying device connected to the inner tube.

2. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the locking device also comprises gripping means that, when the inner tube is to be retracted from the outer tube with the aid of a retriever device comprising gripping means, and said gripping means of the retriever device come into contact with the gripping means of the locking device, in one and the same movement, shall engage with the gripping means of the retriever device and simultaneously release the inner tube from its locked position in relation to the outer tube.

3. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said locking device comprises at least two forward protrusions directed radially outwards and at least two forward protrusions directed radially inwards, said forward outwardly directed protrusions being intended to achieve locking of the inner tube in relation to the outer tube and said forward inwardly directed protrusions being intended to firmly lock the gripping means of the accompanying device during insertion into the outer tube, and to release the gripping means of the accompanying device when the inner tube has assumed its correct position in the outer tube for drilling.

4. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 3 wherein it comprises at least two parts, in that each of these parts comprises at least one of said protrusions, and in that each of said parts is journalled pivotably in the inner tube in radial direction about a shaft situated between the gripping means of the locking device and its forward protrusions so that the forward protrusions can pivot outwards in radial direction at the same time as the gripping means of the locking device can pivot inwards, and vice versa, whereupon the forward outwardly directed protrusions effect locking of the inner tube in relation to the outer tube by pivoting outwards through openings arranged in the inner tube and engage with recesses arranged on the inside of the outer tube, at the same time as the forward inwardly directed protrusions also pivot outwards and mechanically release the gripping means of the accompanying device when the inner tube has assumed the correct position in the outer tube for drilling.

5. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 3 wherein, in order to achieve retraction of the inner tube, the gripping means of the retriever device forces the gripping means of the locking device to pivot outwards so that they engage with the gripping means of the retriever device, and the forward protrusions thus pivot inwards so that the forward protrusions disengage with said recesses in the outer tube and thus release the inner tube from its locked position in relation to the outer tube.

6. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the gripping means of the locking device comprise at least two rear protrusions directed radially inwards.

7. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 3 wherein said inner tube of the wire line core drill is provided with a valve for flushing medium, and in that said forward inwardly directed protrusions are designed to mechanically retain and mechanically release a gripping means connected to said valve, whereupon the valve is opened.

8. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 3 wherein said accompanying device is an insertion device for inserting an inner tube into an outer tube, which is provided with gripping means, and in that said forward inwardly directed protrusion are designed, in their inwardly pivoted position and during insertion of the inner tube into the outer tube, to be in engagement with the gripping means of said insertion device, and assume their outwardly pivoted position when the inner tube has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, whereupon the locking device is disengaged from the gripping means of the insertion device, so that said means can be removed together with its insertion device.

9. (AMENDED) A wire line core drill system comprising an inner tube by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube connected to a drill bit provided with a locking device as claimed in claim 1.

10. (AMENDED) A method for wire line core drilling using a wire line core drill comprising an inner tube by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube connected to a drill bit, which inner tube is provided with a locking device to position the inner tube in the correct position in the outer tube for drilling, and to firmly lock the inner tube to the outer tube in said correct position by means of first locking members, wherein the inner tube is inserted into the outer tube, whereupon said first locking members are in a retracted position and second locking members of the locking device mechanically

lock a gripping means of an accompanying device connected to the inner tube during insertion, until the inner tube has assumed the correct position in the outer tube, and when the inner tube has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube the locking device, in one and the same movement simultaneously effects mechanical locking of the inner tube to the outer tube and mechanical release of said gripping means of the accompanying device.

Please add new claims 11-21 as follows:

11. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 2 wherein said locking device comprises at least two forward protrusions directed radially outwards and at least two forward protrusions directed radially inwards, said forward outwardly directed protrusions being intended to achieve locking of the inner tube in relation to the outer tube and said forward inwardly directed protrusions being intended to firmly lock the gripping means of the accompanying device during insertion into the outer tube, and to release the gripping means of the accompanying device when the inner tube has assumed its correct position in the outer tube for drilling.

12. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 11 wherein it comprises at least two parts, in that each of these parts comprises at least one of said protrusions, and in that each of said parts is journaled pivotably in the inner tube in radial direction about a shaft situated between the gripping means of the locking device and its forward protrusions so that the forward protrusions can pivot outwards in radial direction at the same time as the gripping means of the locking device can pivot inwards, and vice versa, whereupon the forward outwardly directed protrusions effect locking of the inner tube in relation to the outer tube by pivoting outwards through openings arranged in the inner tube and engage with recesses arranged on the inside of the outer tube, at the same time as the forward inwardly directed protrusions also pivot outwards and mechanically release the gripping means of the accompanying device when the inner tube has assumed the correct position in the outer tube for drilling.

13. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 4 wherein, in order to achieve retraction of the inner tube, the gripping means of the retriever device forces the gripping means of the locking device to pivot outwards so that they engage with the gripping means of the retriever device, and the forward protrusions thus pivot inwards so that the forward protrusions disengage with said recesses in the outer tube and thus release the inner tube from its locked position in relation to the outer tube.

14. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 11 wherein, in order to achieve retraction of the inner tube, the gripping means of the retriever device forces the gripping means of the locking device to pivot outwards so that they engage with the gripping means of the retriever device, and the forward protrusions thus pivot inwards so that the forward protrusions disengage with said recesses in the outer tube and thus release the inner tube from its locked position in relation to the outer tube.

15. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 12 wherein, in order to achieve retraction of the inner tube, the gripping means of the retriever device forces the gripping means of the locking device to pivot outwards so that they engage with the gripping means of the retriever device, and the forward protrusions thus pivot inwards so that the forward protrusions disengage with said recesses in the outer tube and thus release the inner tube from its locked position in relation to the outer tube.

16. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 13 wherein the gripping means of the locking device comprise at least two rear protrusions directed radially inwards.

17. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 14 wherein the gripping means of the locking device comprise at least two rear protrusions directed radially inwards.

18. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 15 wherein the gripping means of the locking device comprise at least two rear protrusions directed radially inwards.

19. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 4 wherein said inner tube of the wire line core drill is provided with a valve for flushing medium, and in that said forward inwardly directed protrusions are designed to mechanically retain and mechanically release a gripping means connected to said valve, whereupon the valve is opened.

20. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 5 wherein said inner tube of the wire line core drill is provided with a valve for flushing medium, and in that said forward inwardly directed protrusions are designed to mechanically retain and mechanically release a gripping means connected to said valve, whereupon the valve is opened.

21. (NEW) A locking device as claimed in claim 6 wherein said inner tube of the wire line core drill is provided with a valve for flushing medium, and in that said forward inwardly directed protrusions are designed to mechanically retain and mechanically release a gripping means connected to said valve, whereupon the valve is opened.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to indicate the relationship of the subject U.S. national application to previously filed applications as required under 37 C.F.R. 1.78, to delete multiply dependent claims, and to better conform the application to U.S. practice.

No amendment is believed to go beyond the disclosure in the international application as originally filed.

With the entry of the foregoing amendments, the application is believed to be in condition for examination and allowance. Consideration of the claims, leading to their allowance and passage of the application to issuance, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appendix A
Marked-Up Version of Replacement Paragraph(s)

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. national counterpart application of international application serial No. PCT/SE00/01630 filed August 24, 2000, which claims priority to Swedish application serial no. 9903018-1 filed August 24, 1999.--

Appendix B
Marked-Up Version of Claim(s)

1. (AMENDED) A locking device for a wire line core drill comprising an inner tube [(2)] by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube [(1)] connected to a drill bit, which locking device is applied in the rear end of the inner tube [, characterized in that] wherein the locking device [(4)] comprises locking members [(7, 9)] so designed that, when the inner tube has been inserted into the outer tube and has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, in one and the same movement it simultaneously effects mechanical locking of the inner tube [(2)] in relation to the outer tube [(1)] and mechanical release of a gripping means [(10; 25)] of an accompanying device [(5; 26)] connected to the inner tube.

2. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 1 [, characterized in that] wherein the locking device also comprises gripping means [(11)] that, when the inner tube [(2)] is to be retracted from the outer tube [(1)] with the aid of a retriever device [(20)] comprising gripping means [(21)], and said gripping means of the retriever device come into contact with the gripping means [(11)] of the locking device, in one and the same movement, shall engage with the gripping means [(21)] of the retriever device and simultaneously release the inner tube [(2)] from its locked position in relation to the outer tube [(1)].

3. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 1 [or claim 2, characterized in that] wherein said locking device comprises at least two forward protrusions [(7)] directed radially outwards and at least two forward protrusions [(9)] directed radially inwards, said forward outwardly directed protrusions [(7)] being intended to achieve locking of the inner tube [(2)] in relation to the outer tube [(1)] and said forward inwardly directed protrusions [(9)] being intended to firmly lock the gripping means [(10; 25)] of the accompanying device [(5; 26)] during insertion into the outer tube, and to release the gripping means [(10; 25)] of the accompanying device when the inner tube has assumed its correct position in the outer tube for drilling.

4. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 3 [, characterized in that] wherein it comprises at least two parts, in that each of these parts comprises at least

one of said protrusions [(7, 9)], and in that each of said parts is journaled pivotably in the inner tube [(2)] in radial direction about a shaft [(12)] situated between the gripping means [(11)] of the locking device and its forward protrusions [(7, 9)] so that the forward protrusions can pivot outwards in radial direction at the same time as the gripping means [(11)] of the locking device can pivot inwards, and vice versa, whereupon the forward outwardly directed protrusions [(7)] effect locking of the inner tube [(2)] in relation to the outer tube [(1)] by pivoting outwards through openings arranged in the inner tube and engage with recesses [(8)] arranged on the inside of the outer tube, at the same time as the forward inwardly directed protrusions [(9)] also pivot outwards and mechanically release the gripping means [(10; 25)] of the accompanying device [(5; 26)] when the inner tube has assumed the correct position in the outer tube for drilling.

5. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 3 [or claim 4, characterized in that] wherein, in order to achieve retraction of the inner tube, the gripping means [(21)] of the retriever device [(20)] forces the gripping means [(11)] of the locking device to pivot outwards so that they engage with the gripping means of the retriever device, and the forward protrusions [(7, 9)] thus pivot inwards so that the forward protrusions [(7)] disengage with said recesses [(8)] in the outer tube and thus release the inner tube from its locked position in relation to the outer tube.

6. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in claim 5 [, characterized in that] wherein the gripping means of the locking device comprise at least two rear protrusions [(11)] directed radially inwards.

7. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in [any one of claims 3-6, characterized in that] claim 3 wherein said inner tube [(2)] of the wire line core drill is provided with a valve [(5)] for flushing medium, and in that said forward inwardly directed protrusions [(9)] are designed to mechanically retain and mechanically release a gripping means [(10)] connected to said valve, whereupon the valve is opened.

8. (AMENDED) A locking device as claimed in [any one of claims 3-6, characterized in that] claim 3 wherein said accompanying device is an insertion device [(26)] for inserting an inner tube [(2)] into an outer tube [(1)], which is provided with gripping means [(25)], and in that said forward inwardly directed protrusion [(9)] are designed, in their inwardly pivoted position and during insertion of the inner tube [(2)] into the outer tube [(1)], to be in engagement with the gripping means [(25)] of said insertion device, and assume their outwardly pivoted position when the inner tube has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, whereupon the locking device is disengaged from the gripping means [(25)] of the insertion device, so that said means can be removed together with its insertion device.

9. (AMENDED) A wire line core drill system comprising an inner tube [(2)] by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube [(1)] connected to a drill bit [, characterized in that it is] provided with a locking device [(4)] as claimed in [any one of claims 1-8] claim 1.

10. (AMENDED) A method for wire line core drilling using a wire line core drill comprising an inner tube by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube connected to a drill bit, which inner tube is provided with a locking device to position the inner tube in the correct position in the outer tube for drilling, and to firmly lock the inner tube to the outer tube in said correct position by means of first locking members, [characterized in that] wherein the inner tube is inserted into the outer tube, whereupon said first locking members are in a retracted position and second locking members of the locking device mechanically lock a gripping means of an accompanying device connected to the inner tube during insertion, until the inner tube has assumed the correct position in the outer tube, and when the inner tube has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube the locking device, in one and the same movement simultaneously effects mechanical locking of the inner tube to the outer tube and mechanical release of said gripping means of the accompanying device.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a locking device (4) for a wire line core drilling system comprising an inner tube (2) by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube (1) connected to a drill bit, which locking device is applied in the rear end of the inner tube. The locking device (4) comprises locking members (7, 9) so designed that, when the inner tube has been inserted into the outer tube and has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, in one and the same movement it simultaneously effects mechanical locking of the inner tube (2) in relation to the outer tube (1) and release of a gripping means (10; 25) of an accompanying device (5; 26) connected to the inner tube.

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PCT/SE00/01630

A LOCKING DEVICE FOR A WIRE LINE CORE DRILLING SYSTEM, A WIRE LINE SYSTEM INCLUDING SAID DEVICE AND A METHOD FOR CORE DRILLING

5 The present invention relates to a locking device for a wire line core drilling system in accordance with the preamble to claim 1, a wire line core drilling system including a locking device in accordance with the preamble to claim 9, and a method of wire line core drilling in accordance with the preamble to claim 10.

10 When performing exploratory drilling to collect rock samples from depths of from several hundred to a couple of thousand meters, double core tubes are used having an inner and an outer tube. The sample is collected in the inner tube, which usually has a length of a few meters. When the inner tube is full this is usually detected by means of a manometer or the like that measures the flushing water pressure in the core tube. A retriever device suspended on a wire is lowered
15 into the tube for retracting the inner tube with the sample, said retriever device comprising a gripping means in the form of a claw or "spear head" arranged to engage with a gripping means arranged on/in the upper end of the inner tube. When the wire is then tautened the inner tube is disengaged from the outer tube, and the inner tube with the sample can be hoisted up. Conversely, the claw and gripping
20 means on the inner tube can be used to lower a new inner tube. Equipment of this type is generally known as a wire line system.

 When a new inner tube is inserted it is important to be able to ascertain that the inner tube really has reached right down to the bottom and has assumed its correct position for drilling, before drilling is commenced. Ascertainment that the
25 tube cannot no longer move, but is firmly held is generally taken as an indication that the inner tube has reached its correct position. According to known technology, therefore, the gripping means is often designed to be combined with some type of locking member that firmly locks the inner tube in relation to the outer tube when the inner tube has reached the correct position. This locking member usually
30 consists of a hook-like device, preferably spring-loaded, a locking claw or latch that engages with recesses or shoulders arranged in the inside of the outer tube. Actual insertion of the inner tube is usually performed by the inner tube being "pumped" along inside the drill string with the aid of water, and/or lowered with the aid of the force of gravity. In the case of horizontal, or substantially horizontal
35 holes the tube must be pumped along. When the inner tube is firmly in place the water pressure will increase to such an extent that a valve arranged for flushing medium in the inner tube is released.

 One problem with such known arrangements is that when the inner tube is inserted into the drill string, it sometimes catches before it has reached the correct
40 position for drilling. With designs currently in use the increase in water pressure

In accordance with the present invention, thus, a locking device for an inner tube comprises locking members so designed that, when the inner tube has been inserted into the outer tube and has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, in one and the same movement it simultaneously effects

mechanical locking of the inner tube in relation to the outer tube and mechanical release of a gripping means of an accompanying device connected to the inner tube. The invention thus offers the advantages that the accompanying device is not released until the inner tube has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling. This is particularly advantageous if, for instance, the accompanying device comprises a valve for flushing medium, which is usual as described above. When the valve is released, this is achieved mechanically with the aid of the locking device in accordance with the invention. Thus, it is not released as a result of any pressure increase, and the risks entailed with previously known pressure-released arrangements, e.g. that the valve is released when the tube catches, are therefore eliminated. The locking device in accordance with the invention also has the advantage that it can be used together with an accompanying device consisting of an insertion device for inserting an inner tube into an outer tube in a dry drill hole. A corresponding method is defined in claim 10.

Preferably, the locking device in accordance with the invention also comprises gripping means which, when the inner tube is to be withdrawn from the outer tube with the aid of a retriever device comprising gripping means, and said gripping means of the retriever device come into contact with the gripping means of the locking device, in one and the same movement engage with the gripping means of the retriever device and simultaneously release the inner tube from its locked position in relation to the outer tube. The invention thus reveals the additional advantage that the locking device and catch are disengaged from each other at the same time as the inner tube is released from being locked in relation to the outer tube.

The present invention thus offers the important advantage of being able to fulfil both the functions described, and also of being able to be used both together with a flushing valve and in a dry drill hole. It constitutes a more reliable, simpler and more economic solution than has been available through known technology.

In accordance with a particularly preferred embodiment the locking device comprises at least two parts, each of which is journaled pivotably in the inner tube in radial direction about a shaft situated between rear protrusions and forward protrusions on respective parts. It is these protrusions that act as means for firmly locking the inner tube in relation to the outer tube, engage with gripping means on the retriever device and also firmly lock or release the accompanying device.

These protrusions and other components of the invention will be described in the following detailed description with reference to the drawings.

The invention also relates to a wire line core drill system including such a locking device, as defined in claim 9.

Additional features and advantages are revealed in the dependent claims.

In accordance with the embodiment illustrated by way of example, the locking device comprises two parts or halves, and each of these parts comprises two forward protrusions 7, preferably with hook-like shape, directed radially outwards, which are designed to engage with recesses 8 arranged on the inside of the outer tube. These forward protrusions 7 may be compared with the latches on previously known devices. The locking device is also provided with forward protrusions 9 directed radially inwards and designed to engage with a gripping means 10 connected to the movable part of the valve 5. The protrusions 9 may also be used

to engage with a gripping means in an device for inserting an inner tube into a dry drill hole, as described below in conjunction with Figure 4. Finally the locking device is also provided with rear protrusions 11, preferably with hook-like shape, directed radially inwards. These protrusions 11 are designed to engage with gripping means of a retriever device, as will be described in detail below with reference to Figure 3.

The two parts of the locking device are spring-loaded and pivotably journaled in the inner tube about shafts 12 situated between the rear protrusions and the forward protrusions. The locking device can thus pivot in substantially radial direction, against the action of two springs 13, preferably wire springs. Each part can therefore be compared to a two-pronged lever.

When the inner tube with the locking device is inserted into the outer tube the forward, the outwardly directed protrusions 7 assume a retracted or compressed position and slide along the inside of the drill string. When the inner tube reaches the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, as illustrated in Figure 1, the protrusions 7 will be opposite the recesses 8 arranged in the outer tube and, thanks to the springs 13, can spring out and into abutment with the outer tube. The inner tube will thus be firmly held in relation to the outer tube. This state, with rebounded springs, is illustrated in Figure 2. The recesses 8 in the outer tube are shaped with a shoulder or stop 14, against which the hook-shaped part of the protrusion can abut, thus preventing the inner tube from being withdrawn from the outer tube.

When the protrusions 7 and the entire portion of the locking device in front of the shafts 12 is permitted to rebound, the protrusions 9 will also move radially outwards so that the gripping means 10 connected to the movable part of the valve is released, and the valve 5 is thus also released. The movable part of the valve will therefore move, so that the valve is opened and flushing medium can flow freely into the inner tube. This is clear from Figure 2.

Figure 3 illustrates how the locking device 4 functions when the inner tube is to be withdrawn. A retriever device 20, provided at the front with a gripping means 21, a spearhead, is inserted into the drill string. The gripping means 21 of the retriever device is so designed that, when it reaches the rear end of the locking device 4, it penetrates between the rear protrusions 11, pushing them apart, i.e. forcing them radially outwards against the action of the springs 13. The forward, outwardly directed protrusions 7 are thus moved radially inwards and become disengaged from the recesses 8 in the outer tube. The inner tube is now freely movable in axial direction. The gripping means 21 is inserted between the hook-shaped protrusions 11, so far that it engages therewith by abutting the hooks and is locked thereby. The inner tube can thus be freely removed from the outer tube

by pulling the retriever device out. The valve 5 remains open throughout the withdrawal process, which is an advantage from the pressure aspect.

Finally, Figure 4 illustrates how the locking device 4 can also be used when inserting an inner tube into a dry drill hole. The forward, inwardly directed protrusions 9 which are used in Figures 1 and 2 to keep the gripping means 10 joined to the valve, are instead used here to grip around a gripping means 25 connected to a device 26 for insertion of an inner tube. Figure 4 illustrates how the inner tube is inserted, before it has reached the correct position for drilling, i.e. before the protrusions 7 have arrived opposite the recesses 8 in the outer tube. The front portion of the locking device, with protrusions 7 and 9 is thus in its retracted position. When the inner tube comes to the position where the protrusions 7 are opposite the recesses 8, the front portion of the locking device will rebound in the same way as illustrated in Figure 2, the protrusions 7 and 9 thus moving radially outwards. The gripping means 25 of the insertion device will thus be released and the insertion device can be withdrawn from the tube while the inner tube is kept in place in the outer tube, as described earlier.

The present invention is naturally not limited to the embodiment illustrated. It may be varied in many feasible ways within the scope of the appended claims. The number of parts may be varied, for instance, as well as the number of protrusions. In the example illustrated, furthermore, the two parts are provided with individual springs and are thus completely independent of each other. However, this is not necessary for the inventive concept.

CLAIMS

1. A locking device for a wire line core drill comprising an inner tube (2) by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube (1) connected to a drill bit, which locking device is applied in the rear end of the inner tube, **characterized** in that the locking device (4) comprises locking members (7, 9) so designed that, when the inner tube has been inserted into the outer tube and has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, in one and the same movement it simultaneously effects mechanical locking of the inner tube (2) in relation to the outer tube (1) and mechanical release of a gripping means (10; 25) of an accompanying device (5; 26) connected to the inner tube.
2. A locking device as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that the locking device also comprises gripping means (11) that, when the inner tube (2) is to be retracted from the outer tube (1) with the aid of a retriever device (20) comprising gripping means (21), and said gripping means of the retriever device come into contact with the gripping means (11) of the locking device, in one and the same movement, shall engage with the gripping means (21) of the retriever device and simultaneously release the inner tube (2) from its locked position in relation to the outer tube (1).
3. A locking device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, **characterized** in that said locking device comprises at least two forward protrusions (7) directed radially outwards and at least two forward protrusions (9) directed radially inwards, said forward outwardly directed protrusions (7) being intended to achieve locking of the inner tube (2) in relation to the outer tube (1) and said forward inwardly directed protrusions (9) being intended to firmly lock the gripping means (10; 25) of the accompanying device (5; 26) during insertion into the outer tube, and to release the gripping means (10; 25) of the accompanying device when the inner tube has assumed its correct position in the outer tube for drilling.
4. A locking device as claimed in claim 3, **characterized** in that it comprises at least two parts, in that each of these parts comprises at least one of said protrusions (7, 9), and in that each of said parts is journalled pivotably in the inner tube (2) in radial direction about a shaft (12) situated between the gripping means (11) of the locking device and its forward protrusions (7, 9) so that the forward protrusions can pivot outwards in radial direction at the same time as the gripping means (11) of the locking device can pivot inwards, and vice versa, whereupon the forward outwardly directed protrusions (7) effect locking of the inner tube (2) in rela-

9. A wire line core drill system comprising an inner tube (2) by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube (1) connected to a drill bit,

characterized in that it is provided with a locking device (4) as claimed in any one of claims 1-8.

10. A method for wire line core drilling using a wire line core drill comprising an inner tube by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube connected to a drill bit, which inner tube is provided with a locking device to position the inner tube in the correct position in the outer tube for drilling, and to firmly lock the inner tube to the outer tube in said correct position by means of first locking members, **characterized** in that
- 10 • the inner tube is inserted into the outer tube, whereupon said first locking members are in a retracted position and second locking members of the locking device mechanically lock a gripping means of an accompanying device connected to the inner tube during insertion, until the inner tube has assumed the correct position in the outer tube, and
 - 15 • when the inner tube has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube the locking device, in one and the same movement simultaneously effects mechanical locking of the inner tube to the outer tube and mechanical release of said gripping means of the accompanying device.
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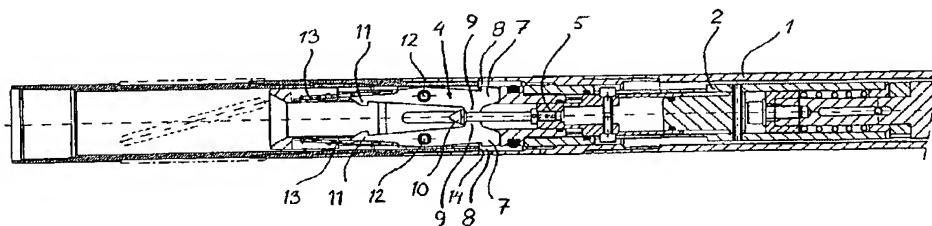
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(54) Title: A LOCKING DEVICE FOR A WIRE LINE CORE DRILLING SYSTEM, A WIRE LINE SYSTEM INCLUDING SAID DEVICE AND A METHOD FOR CORE DRILLING



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a locking device (4) for a wire line core drilling system comprising an inner tube (2) by means of which core samples are collected, and an outer tube (1) connected to a drill bit, which locking device is applied in the rear end of the inner tube. The locking device (4) comprises locking members (7, 9) so designed that, when the inner tube has been inserted into the outer tube and has assumed the correct position inside the outer tube for drilling, in one and the same movement it simultaneously effects mechanical locking of the inner tube (2) in relation to the outer tube (1) and release of a gripping means (10; 25) of an accompanying device (5; 26) connected to the inner tube.

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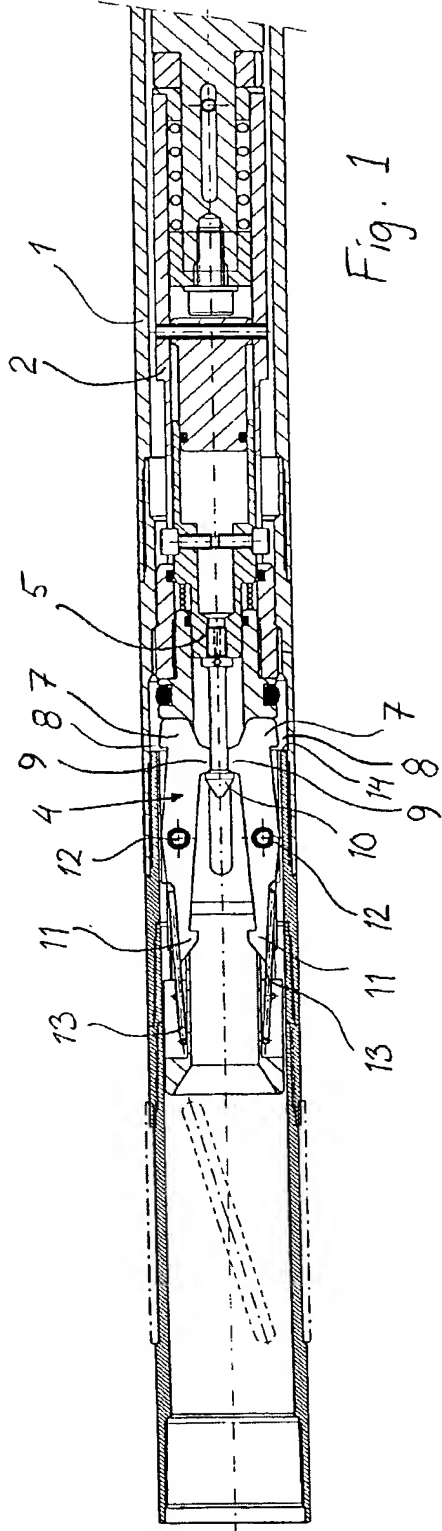


Fig. 1

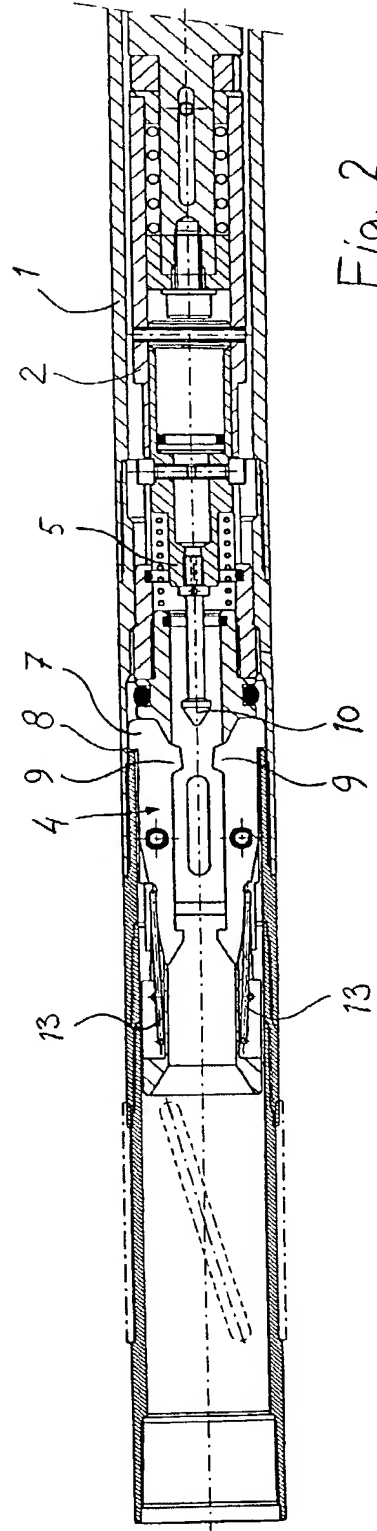
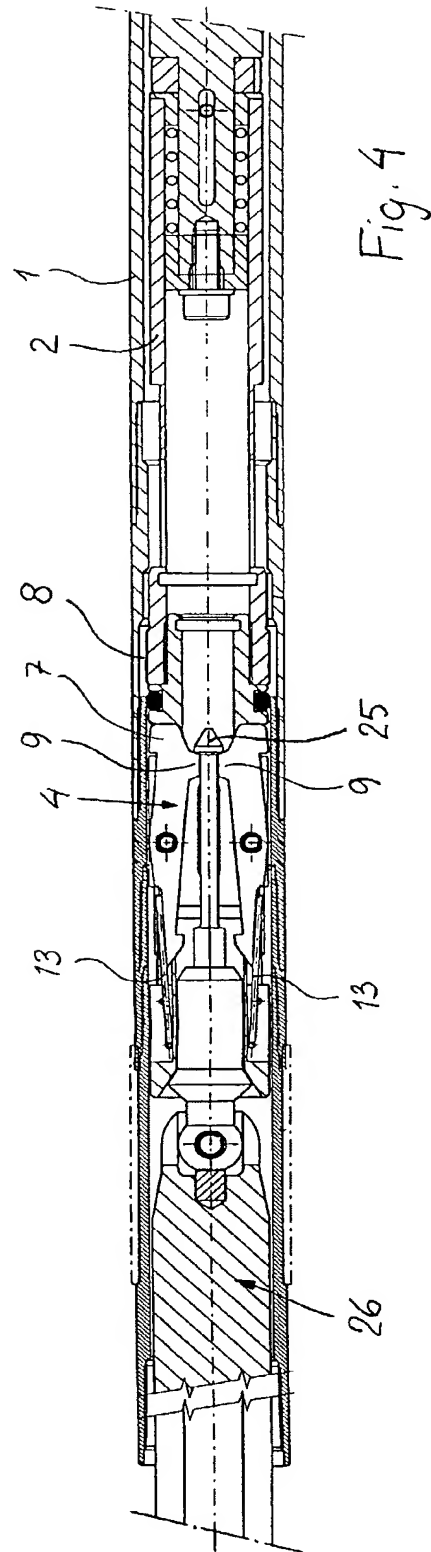
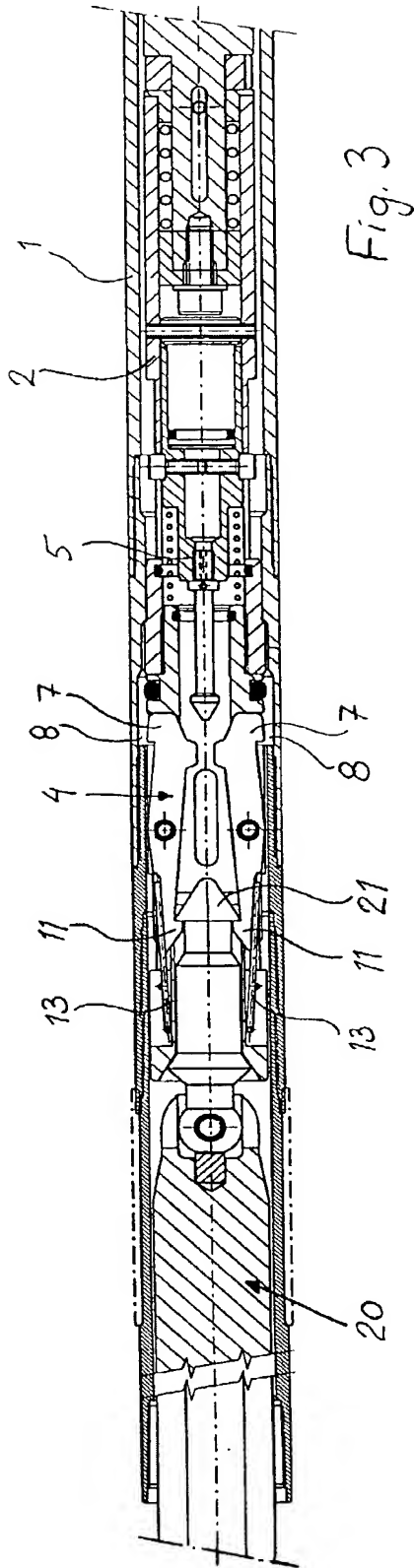


Fig. 2



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DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY - PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled:

A LOCKING DEVICE FOR A WIRE LINE CORE DRILLING SYSTEM, A WIRE LINE SYSTEM INCLUDING SAID DEVICE AND A METHOD FOR CORE DRILLING, the specification of which

(check one)

_____ is attached hereto

☒ was filed on 24 August 2000

as

United States Application Serial No. _____

or

PCT International Application No. SE00/01630

and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby declare that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to herein.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate on which priority is claimed (as listed below) and I have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

993018-1
(Number)Sweden
(Country)24 Aug. 1999
(Day/Month/Year Filed)☒ Yes ☐ No

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

Yes No

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

Yes No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(b) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

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(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

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16— I hereby appoint William R. Coffey, Reg. No. 24023; Jerry E. Hyland, Reg. No. 20904; Richard D. Conard, Reg. No. 27321; Steven R. Lammert, Reg. No. 27653; Richard A. Rezek, Reg. No. 30796; Timothy E. Niednagel, Reg. No. 33266; David R. Melton, Reg. No. 26391; Perry Palán, Reg. No. 26213; Mark M. Newman, Reg. No. 31472; Bobby B. Gillenwater, Reg. No. 31105; Paul B. Hunt, Reg. No. 37154; William A. Morrison, Reg. No. 38248; Barry D. Blount, Reg. No. 35069; John P. Breen, Reg. No. 38833; Jill L. Werling, Reg. No. 39874, and Nancy J. Harrison, Reg. No. 27083; as attorneys of record

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with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and I specify that communications regarding the application be directed to:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Second Inventor's Signature

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Country of Citizenship

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